

The Whitehorse Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Series 20 no 3 - May-June

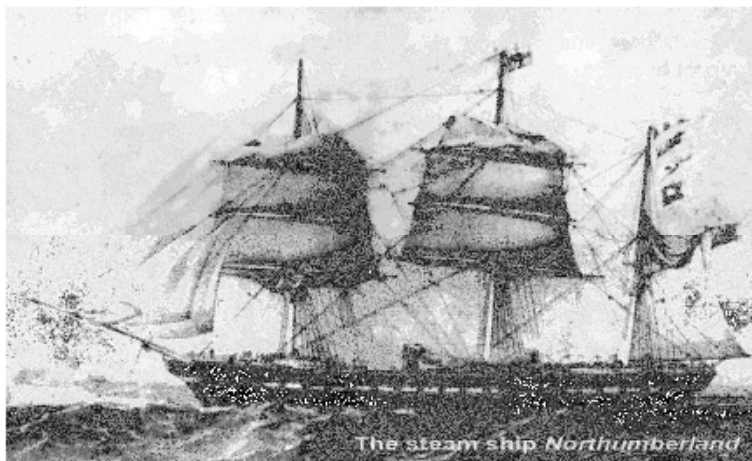
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Excerpts from a traveller's diary

In March of 1877, 25-year-old Jabez Edwards (cousin of Arthur Edwards of Forest Hill) boarded the ship 'Northumberland' to make the eight-week journey from England to Melbourne. In the next three issues of the newsletter we will present extracts from the diary he kept on the voyage.

Thursday March 29th 1877 – Embarked on Steamship Northumberland at Graveshead about 1 o'clock Ship in Great Confusion Steamed away from anchorage amidst an English Cheer about 3 o'clock pm had a Good run till 7 o'clock when we dropped anchor night very fine and moonlight Sea calm ahead

Friday 30th – up early went on deck to wash me – a very fine morning Sighted Plymouth about 8o'clock passed the breakwater about 9o'clock and dropped anchor in the bay took on board coal, Fresh meat & vegetables and a good number of passengers with much luggage – Plymouth looks a very fine town from the bay we get a good view of the several forts to protect the town and many fine Blocks of Buildings. Before leaving the Bay a gentleman came on board and held a short service on the Second cabin to wish us God speed on our Journey after which we weighed anchor leaving the pilot when clear of the Bay with an English cheer The sea so calm we could scarcely tell we were going if it were not for the constant thud of the engine. Sick first time this morning



Tuesday 3rd April –dolphins seen during the day which caused great excitement on Board Ship still roling very much which made me sick in the night Miles run 217

Thursday 5th – A very fine day and warm just getting my sea legs on overtook the Loch Katrine Saling vessel bound for Sydney could see people on board all her sail seemed to be set but we soon lost sight of her Sighted Islands South of Maderia about 7o'clock p.m. counted 7 peaks that looked like clouds in the distance miles run 250. Passengers more cheerful to day.

Friday 6th – Still very warm like a Sheet of Glass. A Great number of Shell fish seen floating about called Portugees men of war made my first rice pudding to day which was quite a relish. Beautiful phosphorent lights seen at night all around vessel, the passengers seem to compete with the ships crew which can be the worst in cursing and swaring miles run 240

Sunday 8th – We had Service on top of the Saloon under canvas cover I enjoyed the singing and the sermon but not being used to the church of england I could not enjoy it so thoroughly as I would have wished a good number that joined in the service after it was over would drink and curse like troopers and make fun of it I never saw such wickedness as on board vessel you cannot meet but a scanty few that are fit to talk with, except in the Saloon The day did not pass in that peace and goodwill that is desirable one man being brought before the first mate on charge of attempting to stab another

Monday 9th – A good Breeze blowing all sail set Engine Stopt Screw taken up out of the water as we can go quicker without it when there is a good wind the canarys sing and the cocks crow it is almost like being in the country we have a great number of fowl ducks & rabbits and 3 cows 1 very fine horse miles run 238

(continued on page 5)

Next meeting: Saturday 9 June 1.30pm

Speaker: Keith Rooney, a mayor of the former City of Nunawading, author of several local histories, collector of memorabilia and long-time worker for the community, will give a talk on 'Local History'.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT - VICKI JONES EVANS

Dear Members

After one year, Rachael has handed over the designing of the newsletter to our new member, Chris Gray. Chris's mother Bettina Stevenson, is assisting with editing. Chris is also the new editor of the Burwood Bulletin. Thank you Rachael, for your valuable contribution to our newsletter.

Rachael now has more time to devote to the many demands of the position of Secretary, and the general administration of the Society. The Wednesday Working Group has been working hard and we now have twenty volunteers. Bob and Barbara Gardiner and Maurie Wyatt have been working hard on the laundry display and it has now reopened.

In April, on that bitterly cold and very wet Tuesday when winter arrived, Valda Arrowsmith and I met with the Whitehorse council's Parkside senior staff at Strathdon House to inspect the grounds in order to follow up members' concerns regarding the state of the property. We were pleased to see that the grounds were in good order and the buildings, from the outside, were weatherproof and secure. Valda and I hope to meet this month with Bill Morrison (City of Whitehorse Manager, Arts & Recreation Development) regarding the inside of the House and the Master Plan for the property.

Lambis Englezos was a most engaging speaker at our April meeting and we welcomed some new faces in the audience who have joined as members. Cr Philip Daw also joined us for the meeting. Lyn Ford, our Association of Eastern Historical Societies representative, reported on the activities of member societies and presented us with donations for our Collection of the Coranderrk and Birrarung databases. These were compiled by Mick Woiwood and published by Bruce Nixon of Tarcoola Press, who have generously donated these two publications to AEHS members and all libraries and schools in the Yarra Valley.

Member Joyce Suto's new biography is featured on this page. We are pleased to have a copy in our collection. Congratulations to Joyce for publishing her story. Please contact Joyce for a copy.

Please join us at our June meeting to hear Keith Rooney speaking on our local history

Vicki Jones-Evans

VALE DOROTHY MEAGHER OAM

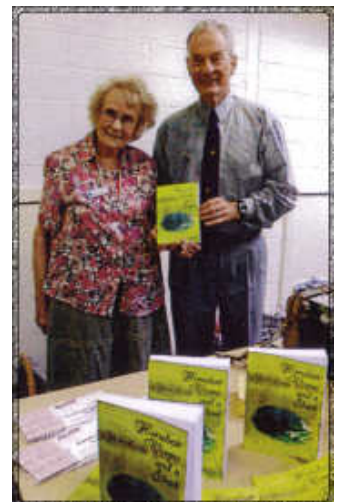
We are sad to report the death on Sunday 13th May of Dorothy Meagher OAM. Dorothy was awarded an OAM, as well as being made City of Nunawading Citizen of the Year, for her contribution to the community through the Girl Guides, in establishing the education program at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary and the building of the Education Centre there, which in July will celebrate 21 years of informing people of all ages about care of the environment.

JOYCE'S LIFE MAKES RIVETTING READING

Horsehair Worms and a Shark by Joyce Suto was launched by Gerry Robinson on the 14th March 2012.

The book contains Joyce's life story, her settling in Whitehorse in the 1960s and the diary of her voyage to Australia. It also includes her poetry and the story of her uncle George Anstey, lost in World War One. This is based on letters held by her family and has been expanded since their previous publication in our newsletter. Copies of these letters have been deposited in the Australian War Memorial.

For copies of the book please contact Joyce on 9842 2338.



Cataloguing Statistics

Photographs	-	3917
Artefacts	-	4476
Documents	-	6405
Visitors to Museum (April)	-	208

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members:

Lorraine Palmer (from Blackburn South)

Phil Brebin (from Blackburn)

Bettina Stevenson (from Mitcham)

We hope they will enjoy their time with the Society!

Barbara Gardiner

Membership Officer

LADIES ADVICE REGARDING SEA TRAVEL



Child's dress and cape
Made by Nora Driscoll O'Donnell on her sea voyage from England
to South Australia in about 1843.



NA1846

In keeping with the 'sea travel' theme of our main story, the *From the Collection* segment this issue showcases two items created on the trip out to Australia in one of the approved and recommended pastimes for Victorian ladies on board ship.

Thomas Knox's *Ladies Advice Regarding Sea Travel* gives some other invaluable insights, including the following excerpts from his book.

- Take a box of cathartic pills, and if you need a dose make it a little larger than you would under the same circumstances on shore.
- Coarse blue flannel or serge is the best for deck wear.
- Have gauntlets sewed on to your gloves to keep your wrists warm.
- Never leave a nice bathing-suit at the bath-house to be dried. If you do, the probability is that when you need it you will find it wet from some one else having worn it, and the buttons off at the places where they are most needed.

FROM THE COLLECTION

APRIL MEETING

Lambis Englezos was guest speaker at our April meeting. Lambis is an amateur historian with an interest in military history. He was instrumental in finding the lost graves of Australian soldiers from the Battle of Fromelles, which took place on 19 July 1916. Lambis declared the battle was 'too hasty, and a tactical mistake'. More than 2000 soldiers died during the battle, and some 200 were never found. The missing soldiers were left in no-man's land. They were hastily buried by the Germans in an unknown location, with no record of identity.

Lambis undertook a great deal of research using many resources including Red Cross records, German photographs, British intelligence aerial photographs and Robin Corfield's book, *Don't Forget Me, Cobber*. This research led Lambis to believe the missing soldiers were buried in a mass grave at Pheasant Wood, Fromelles.

Lambis spoke about Private Harry Willis from Yarram. One of a family of 15, an unwilling Harry was kept at home by his parents; however, when given a white feather, the sign of cowardice, he ran away from his family. Lying about his age he enlisted and was one of the many soldiers killed at Fromelles and never found. Harry's great-nephew Tim Whitford, also a key figure in the search for the lost diggers, was at Fromelles when in a stroke of coincidence Harry's good-luck charm was found among the artefacts recovered during the initial dig led by Tony Pollard in 2008. Among the artefacts also was a British button, proving that British soldiers also were buried nearby.

In 2009 the recovery of 250 bodies commenced. Lambis stated "We have a moral obligation to recover war dead". The letter from a mother whose son was one of those reported missing at

Fromelles was read out, emphasising the need to recover the diggers and if possible, to identify them; for as Lambis says, identification of the soldiers brings them dignity.

Viable DNA was taken from all soldiers recovered and advertisements were placed in newspapers seeking descendants so that they could be formally identified. Harry Willis was identified by DNA from his niece. Commencing on 30 January 2010, 249 soldiers, of whom 96 had been identified, were buried at a new cemetery in Fromelles. The 250th body was withheld for burial on 19 July 2010, the anniversary of the battle. Eighty-one families attended the ceremony.



Lambis passionately and eloquently speaks about the lost of Fromelle

STREET NAME PROJECT



Whitehorse Historical Society Inc. is collecting and recording the origins of street names of the former City of Nunawading. This information will complement the Box Hill City Council publication *The Origin of Box Hill Street Names*, by Charles F. Williams.

We are asking you to tell us anything you may know about the origins of street names in the area. Perhaps your neighbours or friends, or relatives who have moved away, have information you could pass on to us. Please ask them – anything we learn can be used to help the many people who are interested in the area, including students, new residents and researchers.

The Nunawading street details we need are:

* who named it

* after whom or what

* when it was named.

Please let the Society know at PO Box 272 Mitcham 3132, phone 9873 4946 or email whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com

RENAMING PART OF JOSEPH STREET

(A letter from Dominique De Stoop)

Dear Lord Mayor and President of the Whitehorse Historical Society,

I am the eldest son of Roger and Wivine De Stoop, who settled in the Box-Hill/Blackburn area in 1952, and I am writing to thank you on behalf of the whole family for re-naming part of Joseph Street as 'DESTOOP Street'. Although the decision to rename the street was made some time ago, we learned about it only a week or so ago.

My late father had indeed acquired a factory in the area in the early 1950s and had brought out several families from Belgium, his native country, and other parts of Europe to

work in the textile factory. He also had homes built for these families in Virgilia St and some of the adjoining streets. Our own home – 'Middlefield House' – also became a memorable venue for my mother's French cooking classes, which were famous in Melbourne throughout the 1960s and 1970s. The whole family retains very good memories of the many years we lived in the area.

I would be grateful if you could pass on our gratitude and thanks to all those responsible for the decision to have our family name recognized in the renaming of one of your streets.

With best wishes for the future,

(Dr) Dominique De Stoop
Visiting Fellow,
Australian National University

CAN YOU HELP WITH BACKYARD PHOTOS?

The Whitehorse Historical Society intends to commemorate the 150th anniversary, in December 2011, of Schwerkolt's purchase of land in Mitcham by celebrating 'The Suburban Backyard' of the 1950s and 1960s.

We are asking for your help by contributing your memories of the period — family photographs (either donated or lent for copying), together with a short paragraph about your memories of your own backyard. These will be presented in a slide show in the museum.

Photos can be emailed (minimum 300 dpi JPEG) to whitehorsehistory@hotmail.com. Alternatively, contact Rachael Cottle on 9873 4946 to arrange to have your photos scanned. We will be most grateful for your help in commemorating this very significant event in the history of our community.

Working Bees 2012

Please make a diary note
and join us on the day.

July – None (too cold!)

September 8 – Saturday

November 10 – Saturday



Working bees commence at 9.30 a.m. and finish around 12 noon with a great morning tea.

Please come and help, even if you can only offer an hour of your time.

Whitehorse Historical Society Dates for Your Diary

Meetings are held at the Local History Room
Schwerkolt Cottage & Museum Complex.

Saturday, 9 June, 1.30 p.m.

General Meeting

Speaker Keith Rooney – 'Local History'

Saturday, 11 August, 1.30 p.m.

General Meeting

Speaker Gerry Robinson – 'The Value of History'

Saturday, 13 October, 1.30 p.m.

General Meeting

Speaker Anne Dixon – 'Costume Parade'

Excerpts from a traveller's diary

(continued from page 1)

Thursday 10th – Getting very hot we can do without our coats we have a case of measles on board . we had a bit of fun to night. Two young men went up to the yard arm and some Sailors caught Sight of them and one went up each side of the mast and caught them nicely and made them pay their foot ale we have had to put the Screw down again and put steam on

Sunday 15th – Very warm we are now in the Southern Hemisphere we crossed the line much sooner than they usually do we have had such a prospers voyage – we had a service again in the poop this morning very good sermon from the words what-ever thy hand find to do – do it with all thy might – but the conduct afterwards of the passengers a sermon only seems to be a farce the wind has been against us since last night miles run 205

Tuesday 17th – wether a little cooler, the heat the last few days had caused some of the sheep and pigs to die and a lot of the rabbits. I think a good deal of it was caused through them not being looked after properly but some of them was stuck and dressed after they had died and sent into the cabins what the eye don't see the heart don't greive is an old Saying miles run 224

Saturday 21st – very fine day – passengers very bussy getting ready for tomorrow Some cleaning knives & forks others making jam tarts & cakes just the same as at home we get plenty of reasins and currents & fruit all one wants to bring in this way is jams & preserved fruits and baking powder with them jams can be had on board but they charge 1/- for very small tins – a little over a pint Bottle of ale they charge 1/- for small bottle of porter “not a pint” 8 pence Ginger beer or soda water 6 pence a Bottle it is a rare bit of fun when the saloon dinner is being taken from the cooking Galley to the Saloon by the stewards – as they pass by with a nice leg of mutton or dish of fowl Jam tarts & puddings it is a common thing to be saluted with a govner leave one here or one may run behind and pretend to take a jam tart of the dish – there are lots of jokes played the children have a fine time of it in fine wether they have a swing on the poop and on the quarter deck – so they don't miss being away from home so much as the older people miles run 196

Sunday 22nd – we had the usual Service in the Saloon this morning an old gentleman spoke from the text Bleive on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be Saved we have some good old times to the hymns which makes one think of home I often think of the times we used to have at Kings Heath I had a very good dinner today of meat pie We had a very good sermon in the Saloon to night from the words “Christ in you the hope and Glory” we have very bright nights now which makes it plesant on deck – the ministers wife holds a school for children on Sunday afternoons – and a Mothers meeting on Mondays Miles run 195

Wednesday 25th – sea rather squaley ship lying on one side much a strong wind blowing two or three times water came over the side and wet a good few which always causes a good laugh many albatross Seen flying around the ship and Cape Pigeons we are rounding the Cape to day a vessel hove in sight about 2o'clock in full sail supposed to be bound for the cape we lost sight of her about dusk days getting much shorter ship roling very much we have to shorten sail to night to make her keep her course captain got hurt by a sail breaking away miles 229

Thursday 26th – Had very little sleep last night vessel roling so much it was rare fun in the night when all was dark to hear the tins and pots, boxes and crockery were tumbling in all directions Miles run 203

Saturday 28th –A very fine day very little wind I saw a bird a good deal like a very large duck swimming alongside the Ship Some of the Saloon passengers were shooting at them from the poop deck but they could not catch them after they were shot. They fly near the ship for a very long distance without flapping their wings Gents were playing cricket a day or two ago and to day the young Laides had a game and was cheered a great deal by the Spectators

Edited by Pat Richardson

(Continued next issue)

A page from the 1871 census, showing Jabez Edwards, his parents and siblings (bottom entries).

The Metropolitan Police Act, 1839, and the Metropolitan Police Act, 1852.									
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NAME	AGE	RELATION	SEX	COLOUR	EDUCATION	RELIGION	PROFESSION	INDUSTRY	REMARKS
180	8	Son	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
181	12	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
182	15	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
183	18	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
184	21	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
185	24	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
186	27	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
187	30	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
188	33	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
189	36	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
190	39	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
191	42	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
192	45	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
193	48	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
194	51	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
195	54	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
196	57	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
197	60	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
198	63	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
199	66	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
200	69	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
201	72	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
202	75	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
203	78	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
204	81	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
205	84	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
206	87	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
207	90	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
208	93	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
209	96	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
210	99	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
211	102	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
212	105	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
213	108	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
214	111	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
215	114	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
216	117	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
217	120	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
218	123	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
219	126	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
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223	138	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
224	141	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
225	144	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
226	147	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
227	150	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
228	153	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
229	156	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
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232	165	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
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236	177	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
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252	225	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
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255	234	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
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257	240	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
258	243	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
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316	417	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
317	420	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
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322	435	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
323	438	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
324	441	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
325	444	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
326	447	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
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333	468	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
334	471	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
335	474	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
336	477	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
337	480	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
338	483	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
339	486	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
340	489	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
341	492	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
342	495	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
343	498	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
344	501	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
345	504	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
346	507	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
347	510	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
348	513	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
349	516	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
350	519	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
351	522	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
352	525	Sister	F	White	None	Anglican	None	None	
353	528	Brother	M	White	None	Anglican	None		

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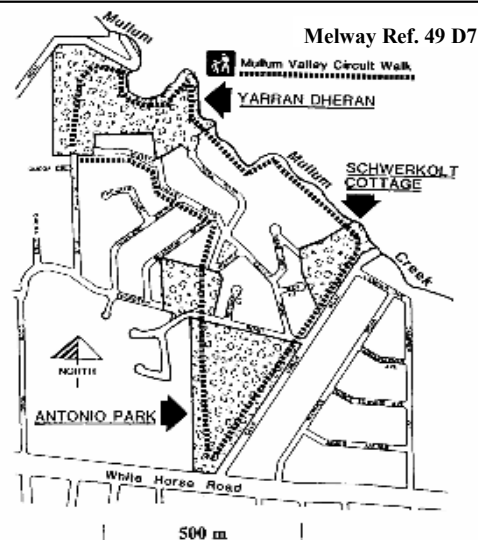
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Copy deadline for next WHS Newsletter: Wednesday 4 July 2012



The Whitehorse Historical Society Inc.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Society is to foster historical interest and knowledge.

To collect, document, research, preserve and exhibit items that show how people have lived and worked in the development of the Whitehorse area from human settlement to the present day.

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**Whitehorse Historical Society
Local History Collection & Place of Deposit**
Open 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Wednesdays.
Visitors welcome.
Ring 9873 4946 for an appointment at other times.

**Box Hill Cemetery Records & Nunawading
Gazette for 1964-1974**
available on microfiche for research

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